

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Finance and Policy Two Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 118G and in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, as amended, the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy will hold a public comment period for these proposed amendments until Friday, March 20, 2009.

114.5 CMR 18.00: Health Insurance Responsibility

Regulation 114.5 CMR 18.00 implements the requirement under M.G.L. c. 151F that employers with a Massachusetts location and 11 or more full time equivalent employees must

- a. file a Health Insurance Responsibility Disclosure (HIRD) regarding maintenance of a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan and other details about health insurance offerings, and
- b. collect Employee HIRDs from any employee who declines employer-sponsored insurances and/or participation in the employer's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan.

The proposal would also update the HIRD to eliminate information that the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy has determined is unnecessary, and add questions regarding the employer disclosures, including whether there is a waiting period before a full-time employee becomes eligible for the employer's plan. Lastly, the proposal also contains a technical amendment to ensure that the Employer HIRD forms continue to be due at the same time as annual Fair Share Contribution filings.

The Division is proposing these amendments to ensure that necessary data is collected, and to eliminate the need to provide data that the Division does not use. There is no fiscal impact as a result of these amendments.

Copies of the proposed regulation are available for inspection and/or purchase at the Division, Two Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 and on the Division's website at www.mass.gov/dhcfp. Interested parties may send written comments to the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, Two Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116-4704.